

REMARKS

This application is a divisional application is Application No. 10/122,266, filed April 11, 2002. This application was filed with 24 claims which are cancelled by this Preliminary Amendment and replaced by new claims 25-35.

For the Examiner's convenience and by way of background regarding the claims 25-35 submitted herewith, these are non-elected claims 30-39 from the prior application No. 10/122,266. These non-elected claims were in two groups, Group II being claims 30-34 and Group III being claims 35-39. The Group I claims are those claims that were elected in the prior application. However, the Group I, II and III claims were all added to the prior application by preliminary amendment with cancellation of original claims 1-24. Consequently, in this application Applicant believes it is proper to also cancel original claims 1-24 and added the Group II and III non-elected claims with renumbering.

In the present application, Claim 25 is a "generic" claim setting forth the methods of qualifying the blank in Markush format. Claims 26-30 further limit one of the Markush items and claims 31-35 limit the other Markush item. Applicant believes that by providing this "generic" claim what were formerly Groups II and Group III claims can be prosecuted together.

Applicant's undersigned attorney request that the Examiner call him regarding any matters that are unclear or whose speed resolution would facilitate prosecution of the application.

25 November 2003
Date

<u>CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL</u> <u>UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10</u>	
I hereby certify that this paper and any papers referred to herein are being deposited by Express Mail to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:	
<u>25 November 2003</u>	
Date	
<u>Walter M. Douglas</u>	<u>25 Nov 2003</u>
Walter M. Douglas	Date

Express Mail No. EV 327190346 US

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

New paragraph at line 3 of page 1 as follows:

This application is a continuation of U. S. Patent Application,
Serial Number 09/835,451, filed April 16, 2001 entitled FLUORIDE CRYSTALLINE
OPTICAL LITHOGRAPHY LENS ELEMENT BLANK, by Mayolet et al.